

452nd CSH arms Bagram ‘to the teeth’

Story and photo by Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Teeth are the fastest aging part of the human body, and to help keep coalition forces here aging gracefully the 452nd Combat Support Hospital’s dental unit provides essential dental care for service members in need of immediate attention to their choppers.

Staffed with a general dentist and two dental assists, the dental clinic’s mission is to keep troops orally fit to fight.

“We provide emergency dental care for the 11,000 coalition troops here,” said Col. James Hove, dentist of the 452nd CSH. “Our role is to make [service members] healthy enough to do their job.”

The dental clinic helps troops that need root canal therapy, have severe broken or decayed teeth or have suffered facial trauma involving their jaw or teeth.

“Because we’re a small staff, we don’t provide an array of services,” said Hove. “Prior to coming to Afghanistan service members should have received a dental screening from their home station [dental clinic] and had major problems corrected, so we should only deal with dental problems that have happened while the service member has been deployed or treat emergency problems.”

While the clinic doesn’t provide care for loose fillings, small breaks in a tooth, routine teeth cleaning or other minor dental concerns, Hove noted that the clinic doesn’t necessarily leave small dental problem unattended.



Col. James Hove, general dentist of the 452nd CSH works on a patient who has come to the dental clinic complaining of a toothache.

See **TEETH**, Page 4

10th Mnt. soldiers hone their skills on QRF

Story and photos by Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Like firemen on duty at a firehouse, a group of 10th Mountain Division infantry soldiers comprising Bagram’s Quick Reaction Force sit in their hut near the airfield always ready to extinguish any problems

coalition forces may have in the area.

Inside the modest hut are wall to wall bunks, stacked three high and a living area for the soldiers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 87th Inf. Regiment, whose platoons perform 24-hour QRF duty on a rotational basis.

The QRF soldiers are prepared for a wide variety of combat related missions, and if Bagram or coalition soldiers were

ever attacked, the QRF soldiers could gather their gear and be on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter ready to be flown into action in a very short period of time, according to 3rd Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Steven Helm.

“We can be called on for anything,” said Team Leader Cpl. Sean Hurst, 3rd Plt.

See **QRF**, Page 4

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



The interior of the ferry was left a tangled mess.

10 dead in ferry accident

NEW YORK — One of New York's famed Staten Island ferries slammed into a pier amid high winds Wednesday afternoon, killing at least 10 people and sending 34 to area hospitals, including one man whose leg was severed, authorities said.

Afterward, the ferry's captain went home and tried to commit suicide, sources said.

A spokesman for St. Vincent's Hospital on Staten Island said it had received 22 patients, some of them with massive trauma and others with hypothermia because they had fallen or jumped into the water.

Three people were in critical condition, among them the ferry captain, a hospital spokesman said.

"There were numerous injuries like fractures and lacerations," Fire Department spokeswoman Maria Lamberti told The Associated Press. "There were a couple of people with amputations — legs and arms."

At least 10 people were taken to Staten Island University Hospital, a surgeon there said.

Law enforcement sources said police found the captain at his home, and a neighbor said an ambulance took him away on a stretcher.

A local government source and a police source said the man tried to commit suicide by slitting his wrists and using a pellet or BB gun.

The 310-foot-long orange ferry, which typically carries around 1,500 passengers, was docking at Staten Island when the accident happened about 3:20 p.m., a Coast Guard official said.



The wreckage of a vehicle hit in Wednesday's attack.

Bomb kills 3 Americans

GAZA CITY — A roadside bomb went off beneath a convoy carrying U.S. diplomats Wednesday in Gaza, killing three American members of a security detail and injuring another, U.S. officials said.

President Bush blamed Palestinian officials, saying they "should have acted long ago to fight terror in all its forms."

Bush repeated calls to give a Palestinian prime minister control of all Palestinian security forces, and he blamed Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat for continuing to block reforms.

Palestinian police started rounding up suspects in a dragnet expected to last through the night, security sources said.

The action followed word that Arafat had reappointed a law and order general, Gazi el-Jabali, to command Palestinian police forces — a man he had previously fired from the job.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, said the United States was "shocked by this latest terrorist outrage."

The convoy was carrying U.S. Embassy officials to Gaza to interview Palestinian students who have applied for Fulbright scholarships in the United States, Kurtzer said. It was carrying at least 12 Americans, according to Israeli sources.

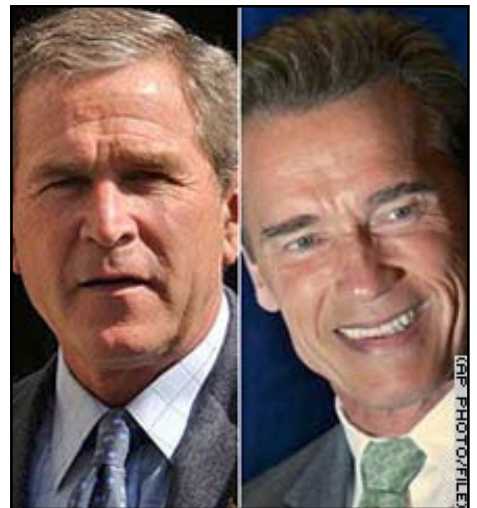
The four Americans victims were employed by the U.S. Embassy to provide security, Kurtzer said. Two Americans died on the scene, a third died on the way to a hospital,

and a fourth was hospitalized, Kurtzer said.

They were employees of DynCorp, a company that provides security for the United States in Israel, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Middle East, according to a senior Bush administration official.

A team of six FBI agents — investigators, forensics and explosives experts — was being sent from Washington to investigate the crime scene.

No one immediately claimed responsibility, and some Palestinian militant groups criticized the bombing, calling it counterproductive in their fight against Israeli occupation.



President Bush plans to meet with Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger Thursday during a California fund-raising trip.

Bush tries to build on actor's political success

DINUBA, California — President Bush, hoping to share in Arnold Schwarzenegger's political success and build support in vote-rich California, said Wednesday "there's been some interesting changes" since he lost the state to Democrat Al Gore three years ago.

Bush's understated reference to California's political upheaval was greeted with appreciative cheers and whistles at a Fresno fund-raising lunch where he collected \$750,000 for his re-election campaign. The president said he would meet with Schwarzenegger on Thursday and "have the honor of congratulating the governor-elect."

NATO peacekeepers authorized by U.N. to move beyond Kabul

By Judy Aita

Washington File United Nations Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously Oct. 13 to expand the size and mandate of the international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan.

Responding to requests from the Afghan Transitional Authority and information from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which commands and staffs the force, the council adjusted the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force to allow the force to move into other areas of the country to help maintain security. ISAF already provides security in Kabul and its environs.

The resolution authorized ISAF's expansion "to support the Afghan Transitional Authority and its successors in the maintenance of security in areas of Afghanistan outside of Kabul and its environs, so that the Afghan authorities as well as the personnel of the United Nations and other international civilian personnel engaged, in particular, in reconstruction and humanitarian efforts, can operate in a secure environment and to provide security assistance for the performance of other tasks in support of the Bonn Agreement."

U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said that "since its inception, just after the Bonn Agreement in 2001, the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan has done a remarkable job in helping the Afghan authorities to provide security in and around the capital. This resolution helps pave the way for increased security in Afghanistan upon which nearly everything else is dependent."

"Afghanistan is a country that deserves the freedoms that international security assistance can help bring: the freedom to move about freely, the freedom for children to attend school and for their teachers to teach them, the freedom to live life without constant fighting and bloodshed, the freedom to join in the drafting of the constitution that will define their government, and, we hope, the freedom to vote next year in a free and fair election in order to decide who will run their country," the ambassador said.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

"Shallow Hal"

1530Z at the MWR building:

A shallow man falls in love with a 300 pound woman because of her "inner beauty."

Tomorrow's movie: "Full Metal Jacket"



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
Bagram:	Haze H: 75F L: 41F	Clear H: 75F L: 41F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 84F L: 48F	Dusty H: 84F L: 48F
Kabul:	Haze H: 77F L: 39F	Haze H: 73F L: 41F
Uzbekistan:	Sunny H: 78F L: 35F	Sunny H: 76F L: 36F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

CJTF-180 Commander —

Maj. Gen. David W. Barno

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Rodney Davis

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Sgt. Maj. Harrison Sarles

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Commander — Maj. Matthew L. Garner

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson

Editor — Sgt. Stephanie Hall

Journalists — Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson,

Sgt. Gregory Heath, Spc. Kelly Hunt

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of Freedom Watch are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM Web site at www.centcom.mil and click on the Freedom Watch or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get the latest editions of the Freedom Watch. To be added to the daily distribution list email HallSTE@baf.cjtf180.army.mil

TEETH, from Page 1

“The clinic is designed for emergency care in a combat environment,” said Hove. “We don’t treat small cases that can wait until a [service member] gets deployed back to a fixed facility, but if we can offer temporary relief for a small case until the [service member] gets back to his home station to have the problem completely fixed then we accommodate the [service member].”

Though the clinic isn’t equipped with all of the fixtures of a comprehensive dental clinic, it has the necessary tools it needs to get to the root of a service member’s problem.

“I brought two of my soldier to the clinic after they complained of mouth pain,” said 1st Lt. Sungbeom Chung, physician at the Korean hospital, “and after seeing [the dentist] the soldiers said they didn’t have any more tooth pains and they were happy with the dental service.”

Chung added that the clinic took X-rays of the Korean soldiers teeth and gave them a general understanding of what was

the cause of the mouth pain and what procedure was going to be done to remedy the problem.

“Our defining requirement for treatment’s pain,” said Hove. “If a [service member] is in pain then he’ll be treated. No matter if the problem is minor or major.”

The clinic is open from 0800 L to 1100 L Monday though Saturday for sick call patients and from 1300 L to 1600 L for scheduled appointments and is open on Sunday for emergencies.

Though the dental clinic only averages about 20 patients a day, Hove noted that having a dental clinic available when a service member needs it is as essential to the coalition forces’ mission here as the weapons and ammunition service members are issued in protecting Afghanistan from the hands of terrorists.

“For the lucky person who has never needed a dentist our job may seems meaningless,” said Hove, “but a person who is in pain or has had oral pain in the past we are a welcomed friend. And there’s nothing better than a friend when you’re hurting. We are the background support that helps keep service members fighting.”

QRF, from Page 1

“We’re ready all the time for anything imaginable that could happen.”

Even though the QRF soldiers are confined to a small area for days at a time, they maintain their edge by training on a daily basis.

“We have to keep training in order to not get complacent,” said Helm. “It helps us stay in rhythm.”

They draw from the many resources to make their training as real as possible by utilizing the live-fire ranges on and around Bagram, including Bagram’s newly built Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site.

They also use the area around their hut to rehearse different mission scenarios and perform battle drills.

“We don’t sit around very much and just talk through things, we’re all about getting up and doing them,” said Hurst. “We train hard and long so when something does occur we can react on instinct.”

Even though the soldiers may never have to fly out on a mission, the time they spend on the QRF assignment will be valuable to them in the long run, according to Hurst.

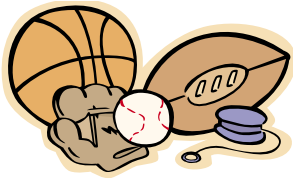
“I get great satisfaction seeing our men get this kind of good training out of this environment,” Hurst said. “And if we were called on I’m 100 percent confident that our platoon can accomplish any task at any time.”



Bagram’s Quick Reaction Force dismounts from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during their static load training.



A quick reaction force squad practices handling suspected enemy forces during their daily battle drills on Bagram.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)



The Florida Marlins join the 1958 New York Yankees as the only teams to pull off come-from-behind victories in Games 6 and 7 on the road.

Marlins complete stunning comeback

CHICAGO — Only the Chicago Cubs could write a twisted ending like this.

And only a team like the Florida Marlins could make it seem so cruel.

Given one final chance to beat the demons of their past and the Marlins, the Cubs couldn't get it done. Kerry Wood failed to hold an early lead and Wrigley Field fell silent as Florida capped its stunning NLCS comeback with a 9-6 win in Game 7 Wednesday night.

"The Cubs were America's favorite. I think we're the darlings of the baseball world now," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said.

Destiny? Fate? The fan in Game 6? Whatever. The Cubs were unable to end their long, strange drought because MVP Ivan Rodriguez, Miguel Cabrera and these remarkably resilient Marlins won their third straight game to clinch the National League pennant.

"Nobody expected us to be in the World Series," Rodriguez said.

The wild-card Marlins will head off to face Boston or the New York Yankees on Saturday.

Even more stinging for Cubs' fans is that this marks Florida's second Series trip in only 11 years of existence. Chicago has been absent since 1945, prompting the team's sad little motto of "Wait 'Til Next Year."

"I felt I let the team down, the organization down and the city of Chicago down," Wood said. "I choked."

Cubs manager Dusty Baker was not nearly as harsh.

"We didn't lose the pennant, the Marlins won it," he said. "We were close and the Marlins took it from us, it's as simple as that."

Baker's 4-year-old son Darren added a final word when his dad was done talking.

"The Cubs will win next year," he said.

Plummer out 4 weeks with broken foot



Jake Plummer led the Broncos to a 4-1 start.

DENVER — Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer will be sidelined about four weeks with a broken left foot.

Plummer, who missed last week's game against Pittsburgh with a shoulder injury, initially injured his foot against Kansas City on Oct. 5.

The Broncos medical staff believes Plummer likely had a stress reaction in his foot which didn't show up on X-rays, then broke the foot at home on Monday

night.

Steve Beuerlein, who played in Plummer's absence against Pittsburgh, now continues as the starter.

The Broncos (5-1) play Minnesota, Baltimore and New England the next three weeks, then have a bye.

Trainer Steve Antonopulos said the foot was X-rayed in Kansas City and nothing showed up. He said Plummer ran on Monday.

Plummer said he felt "a little pop" when he got up off his couch on Monday night.

"I thought it was just a strain," he said. "It's kind of a freak deal. But if it happened, it happened for a reason," he said.

"Maybe it's to get my shoulder back healthy so when I do come back in a few weeks, I will have no excuses."

Plummer underwent more treatment on Tuesday for what was believed to be a strained ligament.

"He came in this morning very tender and you could feel a click and a pop," Antonopulos said. "There wasn't any question that he needed another X-ray."

That X-ray showed a clean break in the middle of Plummer's left foot.

"I'm still shocked," Plummer said. "It's weird. I didn't think there was anything wrong with my foot. It was sore after the Kansas City game, but my mind was more on my shoulder."

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

7 Taliban killed, 12 captured in fighting

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)— Afghan soldiers backed by U.S. troops and helicopters have killed seven Taliban and captured 12 others in a sweeping raid in a remote region in southern Afghanistan, a district police chief said Wednesday.

Three Afghan soldiers also died and five others were wounded in the two days of fighting in Chaar Cheno district's rugged mountainous terrain, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) northeast of Kandahar, said police chief Haji Mohammed Akhtar.

The operation was successful and hundreds of Afghan soldiers who participated have returned, he said. It wasn't immediately clear if any important Taliban commanders were among the dead or captured rebels.

Akhtar said the captured men were being interrogated in Uruzgan, the province where Chaar Cheno is located. He gave no other details.

Akhtar, who Tuesday said the soldiers were facing tough resistance by 100 Taliban rebels, didn't explain how the remaining insurgents managed to escape.

The raid was launched on a suspected Taliban hideout Monday, sparking a shootout which ended Tuesday. About 500 Afghan soldiers armed with heavy machine guns, AK-47 assault rifles and rocket launchers participated in the sweep.

Col. Rodney Davis, a spokesman at the U.S. military's headquarters at Bagram, just north of the Afghan capital, Kabul, has confirmed in an e-mail that U.S. troops were involved in the raid, but refused to provide more detail.

Remnants of the Taliban, whose government was ousted in late 2001, have stepped up attacks against government troops, aid workers and U.S.-led coalition forces in recent months.

Some 11,500 coalition forces, mostly American, have been helping Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government track down Taliban and al Qaeda fugitives.

Pakistan says senior al Qaeda man may be dead

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) — Pakistan said on Wednesday a senior al Qaeda official could be among eight suspected militants killed in a clash with Pakistani forces near the Afghan border earlier this month.

"I can't confirm but there is an apprehension that there was a man who had a price on his head among those killed," Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told a news conference.

"He could be among the top 10 or 15 (al Qaeda) people," he said, without giving further details.

Pakistani troops killed eight suspected al Qaeda fighters and arrested 18 on Oct. 2 after swooping down on a hideout near the border town of Angor Adda in the tribal area of South Waziristan.

Two Pakistani soldiers were killed and the same number wounded in the clash.

Pakistani investigators have been trying to determine the nationalities and identities of men killed and wounded.

Authorities last week launched a crackdown on the tribes accused of sheltering suspected fighters.

Pakistan, a key ally in the U.S.-led war on terror, says it has arrested 500 Taliban and al Qaeda suspects, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Afghanistan (news - web sites) has repeatedly accused Pakistan of not doing enough to stop militants crossing the border and carrying out attacks on its soil.

Islamabad says it is doing what it can to seal the porous and often mountainous border in its fiercely independent tribal lands.

"Hey chief, I've got the new guy testing the AERPS gear."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support